7 November 1960

Dear Ed,

This is in reference to a film processing requirement during our system testing.

Since the image quality obtained with the system will be the chief criteria for system performance evaluation, it is desired that variations of image quality contributed by processing be as small as possible. This will allow us to properly attribute image quality variations to system operation. Therefore, two processing characteristics are of primary importance: repeatability of processing and even-development over the emulsion surface. Such factors as the effective film speed obtained, stability of the processed image, time required for processing, and the like are secondary considerations.

The film lengths will vary from one frame length, approximately three feet, to possibly as many as 50 frames, or 150 feet. A large film length processing capacity will allow more system variables, or more variations of a variable, to be examined during any one test and therefore is desirable.

We have available a type B-5A processor. It could be modified to accept the desired film width, However, the most evenly-developed film with this processor is that in the center of the roll length, which would require long leader and trailer lengths. At best this processor is expected to give insufficient repeatability, due to variation in film lengths, and not sufficient even-development over the film area, which varies throughout the film length symmetrically about the center.

Web processing appears to have all the characteristics required for our film processing needs during system tests. Therefore, we would like to inquire if a film processing machine and web supply would be available by March when our testing starts? The mechanism for handling the web and film need only be sufficiently sophisticated for laboratory operation. If you believe the web process not to be suitable for our film processing requirements during system testing at our plant, or if it will not be available when our testing begins, what would you suggest we could use?

Your suggestions and assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Frank

Frank

FS:mb
cc: LEW